(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a committee to rework the schedule of route rationalisation;

(c) if so, by when the committee is likely to submit its report to Government; and

(d) the time by when redistribution of routes between Indian Airlines and Air India are likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) A three-member Committee has been constituted to examine the issue of route rationalisation between Air India and Indian Airlines for their common international operations taking in-to account their views and keeping inview the short term/long term interests of the two airlines etc. Report of the Committee is awaited.

Cost escalation in upgradation of international airports

2644. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not extended any budgetory support for the upgradation of various international airports in the country during this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is steep cost escalation in the upgradation of international airports inthe past few years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to deal with such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) In the Union Budget for the year 2003-04 it has been announced that the two airports at Delhi and Mumbai will be renovated/modernized. The exact modalities of implementation including requirement of budgetary support are being worked out.

(c) and (d) There has not been any steep increase in the upgradation cost in the past few years.